



**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS AND GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS**

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME, AND
CORRECTION**

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS

SENATOR ZELNOR MYRIE

NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Joint Public Hearing to Examine the Economy, Efficiency, Equitability, and Effectiveness of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision’s Division of Correctional Industries (aka Corcraft)

PURPOSE: To explore the overall mission, goals, and economics of Corcraft; its role as a New York State Preferred Source supplier for office equipment; and how its operations and performance ultimately benefit or otherwise impact New York taxpayers, incarcerated individuals, and the State at large.

**Monday
February 12, 2024
10:30AM
Hearing Room A
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248**

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Corcraft has what is known as “preferred source” status in state law, meaning that state and county agencies, municipalities, school districts, colleges and universities, police and fire departments, select nonprofits and even correctional facilities are directed to purchase goods from Corcraft, so long as the company makes a product comparable to what they intend to purchase. The benefit to purchasers is that they can avoid time-consuming bidding processes for everyday items. However, “preferred source” status has effectively given Corcraft a monopoly providing the furniture, signage and even cleaning supplies that taxpayer-supported public institutions rely on. Yet their material costs – recent data pegs average earnings at just 65 cents per hour for the incarcerated people building Corcraft’s bookshelves and rolling chairs – are dwarfed by the prices buyers pay.

Persons wishing to present pertinent testimony to the Committees on Investigations and Government Operations; Crime Victims, Crime, and Corrections; and Procurement and Contracts at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to 10 minutes duration. Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees on Investigations and Government

Operations; Crime Victims, Crime, and Corrections; and Procurement and Contracts would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Committees on Investigations and Government Operations; Crime Victims, Crime, and Corrections; and Procurement and Contracts, in accordance with their policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), have made their facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to State Legislature facilities and activities.

Senator James Skoufis
Chair, Committee on Investigations and
Government Operations

Senator Julia Salazar
Chair, Committee on Crime Victims, Crime,
and Correction

Senator Jeremy Cooney
Chair, Committee on Procurement and
Contracts

Senator Zellnor Myrie
Member, Committee on Crime Victims, Crime,
and Correction

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons wishing to present testimony at the public hearing to examine the economy, efficiency, equitability, and effectiveness of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision’s Division of Correctional Industries (aka Corcraft) are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible: by February 5th for those seeking to testify in person, and by February 12th for those seeking to submit written testimony. Please return this form by mail, email, or fax to:

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Oral Testimony by Invitation Only

- I plan to attend the public hearing on Corcraft to be conducted by the Committees on Investigations and Government Operations; Crime Victims, Crime, and Correction; and Procurement and Contracts on February 12, 2024.

- I plan to make a public statement at the above hearing. My statement will be limited to 10 minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.

- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.

- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.

- I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.

- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information.

Please specify the type of assistance required:

NAME:

TITLE:

ORGANIZATION:

ADDRESS:

E-MAIL:

TELEPHONE / FAX: